

IOWA BOARD OF NURSING
CODE OF ETHICS

Iowa Board of Nursing members shall:

1. Demonstrate personal responsibility for being knowledgeable of the Iowa Nurse Practice Act and the rules and regulations of the Iowa Board of Nursing.
2. Review and make decisions on all issues presented to the board from the position of public safety and welfare, consistent with contemporary nursing practice.
3. Accept accountability for majority decisions of the board and support the decisions and their rationale to the public, regardless of personal opinion.
4. Be cognizant of the fact that board members are viewed as representatives of the Board of Nursing when they appear at public meetings and professional gatherings. Board members should not speak for the board unless specifically authorized to do so.
5. Not hold elected or appointed office in a state, regional, or national association or professional organization if such an office might result in potential, actual, or the appearance of conflict of interest.
6. Not vote or participate in discussion on any matter, which would involve a personal or professional conflict of interest. A conflict of interest shall be considered to exist in those cases in which a member is:
 - a. A person involved in the matter under consideration in such a manner that he or she is in a position to receive personal or private gain or loss as a result of action taken or a decision made by the board.
 - b. A director, trustee, officer, or board member of an agency, institution, or organization which might receive benefit or loss as a result of action taken or a decision made by the board.
 - c. An employee of an agency, institution, or organization which might receive benefit or loss as a result of action taken or a decision made by the board.
 - d. The spouse, child, parent, or relative of a person described above under paragraphs a, b and c.

NOTE:

Any other person or persons present at the meeting may raise the question of conflict of interest or possible conflict of interest with respect to any board

member. The question so raised shall be decided in the same manner as if the board member had announced the conflict or possible conflict of interest.

7. Prepare for board meetings through careful review of materials and consultation with resource persons. Board members shall come to meetings with preliminary opinions of the issues to be discussed and questions for clarification.
8. If nurses, remain current in contemporary nursing practice by review of professional literature, attendance at educational programming and through actual practice or relationships with colleagues in practice settings.
9. If consumers, demonstrate responsibility for determining specific educational needs in order to facilitate comprehension of the scope of contemporary nursing practice and the educational needs of nurses. Public board members shall review nursing journals, make site visits and attend educational programming to enhance knowledge of nursing.
10. Discuss issues honestly and demonstrate flexibility by presenting options for board decision making.
11. Review practice issues utilizing up-to-date information and standards. Make objective decisions based on knowledge of practice and education of the licensee always considering protection of the public and consumer need.
12. Review disciplinary proceedings without discrimination as to age, sex, race and/or creed toward the respondent, and in a manner that is respectful of human dignity.
13. Maintain confidentiality regarding disciplinary matters and other closed session issues.
14. Review and make decisions regarding nursing education materials and issues based on current information, trends, standards and the current and future welfare of the public.
15. Demonstrate personal responsibility for being knowledgeable of and in compliance with the Iowa Gift and Campaign Contributions Laws.